

ROYAL

Baking Powder

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GRAVATT WANTS
PRIMARY BILL TO
HEAL DISSENSION

(Continued from First Page)

thousands, who look to this Legislature for genuine primary reform, and the present effort to delay final disposition of the issue appeared suspiciously like an effort to cause the Senate to recede from its position.

"I have assumed a frank position with reference to this primary bill," said Senator Gravatt, "and have candidly given my reasons for the changes I have asked. I hope the supporters of the bill will be equally frank and state their real reason for desiring to further delay the settlement of this important point."

Favors Single Primary.

"We have no intention to ask the Senate to recede from its position, unless it desires to do so," replied Senator Gravatt. "Personally, considering the amendment, I am inclined to the belief that a single primary, held on a definite fixed day throughout the State, would be preferable to the two primaries provided in the amendment. It has occurred to me that it would be wise to wait until the Senate has had time to think such a plan over, and that it should be given an opportunity to adopt it if it desires to do so. It may be possible, also, that I might be convinced that the fixing of the pri-

mary date should be left to the separate party committees. I do not see what harm could come from a short postponement."

Senator Gravatt withdrew further objection, and the motion to reconsider the vote by which the Gravatt amendment was adopted was passed by with the understanding that the deferment would be temporary. The Senate proceeded to the consideration of amendments offered from the floor, voting

down all except those that have been noted, with an almost machine-like regularity.

Section 7 of the committee bill, defining the right and power of parties, was made the object of a particularly bitter attack by Senator Gravatt. Its purport, he said, was such as to place a preponderance of power in the hands of the local party committees and impair seriously the pure election provisions of the whole bill.

"I object to this section," said Senator Gravatt, "because it seeks suspiciously of lubricating oil. A primary law should be framed by friends of the measure, and not by men who, if not actually hostile to the primary system, appear to be certainly not more than lukewarm towards it."

"The discussion on my amendment to make the regular judges of election the judges of primary elections has brought out clearly the astounding fact that most of the members regard the primary as an instrument to be used to benefit their party. They have, it appears, entirely lost view of the main object of a primary law—namely, to place in the hands of the people a genuine primary law takes no recognition of a Democratic party or a Republican party, but addresses itself to the people as a whole, regardless of party."

"There is no denying the fact that there is a good deal of dissension and discord to-day in the Democratic ranks of the State. Nine-tenths of this dissension, in my opinion, is due to the feeble, ineffective, I may say silly, primary law which we have placed on the statute books after a twelve-year agitation for reform in this direction."

"While I am deeply interested in the passage of a good primary law for its own sake, I have an additional purpose in opposing those sections which, in my opinion, would destroy the efficiency of the bill under discussion. I am trying to heal the dissension that has torn apart the Democratic party of this State. Nine-tenths of this dissension, I believe, is due to the primary law which will insure honest elections. I speak ex cathedra, knowingly. Pass such a law, and you will hear no more of machine or antimachine. Until you do that the dissension will remain."

"The bill comes up at 12:30 o'clock to-day as a special and continuing order, and there is a probability that it will reach a vote before the afternoon adjournment. The principle point at issue at this stage of the consideration appears to be the Gravatt amendment providing for the holding of primaries throughout the State on the same definite day. To-day's consideration of the bill promises a free discussion of this point."

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

To offset the adoption on Monday of a Confederate pension bill carrying an indeterminate increase of from \$15,000 to \$200,000 over and above what had been provided in the appropriation bill, the House of Delegates yesterday morning began a campaign of retrenchment. At two long sessions the process was continued, with motion to reconsider after item, and endless roll calls to put members from various localities on record. As a bill as reported by the Appropriations Committee exactly \$5,550.

The process of retrenchment will go on to-day with the prospect of making better progress when the larger amounts provided for educational institutions are reached.

Items Stricken Out.

The items stricken from the bill yesterday were: Attorney-General's expense account, cut from \$700 to \$500; increase of \$200 for chief clerk of Secretary of the Commonwealth; reduction of fund of \$25,150 for clerk hire in office of Auditor of Public Accounts to \$20,000; increase of \$200 in salary of Superintendent of Public Printing; assistant item for insurance of voters and holders at Capitol reduced from \$500 to \$100; increase in salary

statistical clerk, Corporation Commission, \$250; expense account Corporation Commission reduced from \$12,500 to \$10,000; contingent expenses Sinking Fund Commissioners reduced from \$700 to \$400.

It was stated that most of the items were already provided in the bill as it passed the Senate and that all of the House has established a record for retrenchment and economy, most of the items for salary increase and necessary expenses could be reinstated when the bill goes to conference.

Mr. Montague, of Richmond, denounced the whole proceeding as the very essence of small politics.

Small Politics, Says Montague.

"This House voted in the dark yesterday merely on sentiment for a pension bill without knowing what it will cost, but with the lowest estimate of cost over and above the amount fixed in the appropriation bill, \$150,000," said Mr. Montague. "It may run to \$200,000. Now you are trying to reduce the bill by the people of the State by this show of economy, and to accomplish it you are expending money in slow motion up the progress of the wheels of government. If you hamper the Commission and the office of the Corporation and Public Accounts, where are you

going to get the money from to pay for those pensions? We shall have a show of sentiment here about the old soldier. I am in favor of Confederate pensions, but I tell you there are soldiers in peace as well as in war. There are honest and faithful and hard-working men who are doing a good service of this State, and your committee, which has investigated, and the Senator, which has taken an interest, think it proper that the compensation of a few of these lesser officers be increased. I think that it is more popular to vote for Confederate pensions, but for that very reason I tell you there is a great deal of small politics in the action this House has taken, and I hope there will be some men enough to vote their conviction as to the proper compensation of the employees of the State, whether it be popular or not."

Brewer Explains Bill.

Chairman Brewer, of the Committee on Appropriations, in presenting the bill, said that it carried \$1,132,558.73 more than the appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1912-1913. There are also pending certain special bills carrying amounts of \$1,132,558.73 more than the appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1912-1913. The total appropriations would leave a balance of \$186,302.22. Counting the estimated amount of \$1,132,558.73 more than the appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1912-1913, this would leave an estimated balance on hand in 1913 of \$3,302.22. This had been the case on the basis of the appropriation under the line-grinding act, amounting to \$30,000, nor for the reason that the bill would cost not less than \$1,000,000, but \$1,132,558.73 more. Deducting the balance of \$3,302.22, Mr. Brewer stated that on the basis of the appropriation bill, as it passed the House, there would be a deficit at the end of the fiscal year of \$1,132,558.73. The appropriation bill would be materially reduced.

Mr. Reed, of Portsmouth, questioned the accuracy of the estimates of probable revenue, claiming that the House was not to be held to the estimate, passing the bill in the House, and the House would be held to the estimate of the pending appropriation measures.

Bill Is Read by Items.

The bill was then read by items. It was soon apparent that the House expects to make a record of carefully scrutinizing the expenditures of the items which appeared in the bill from year to year for many years, and which were accepted by the Appropriations Committee as a matter of course, were closely questioned. More than an hour was consumed in debate, and roll calls on one amendment reduced the expense account of the Attorney-General's office \$200, the remark being made that more time and attention had been devoted to the item which only carries \$200, than was given on Monday to the consideration of the pension bill carrying more than \$200,000, and which were rushed through without debate.

Mr. Field gave notice of an intention to fight all salary increases, and one that was reached was reduced to the amount provided in the appropriation bill. Mr. Field said he proposed to fight every salary increase, and that he was not going to let the House pass a bill that would increase the salary of any one without a vote.

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Expenses of Attorney-General.

The salary of the Governor, and of the secretaries and the expenses of the office, carrying \$1,750, were approved. The first item came on the roll call. The Attorney-General's office, which had been through with but a \$200 increase, carried by the House, and Judge Williams stated that to his personal knowledge the allowance was not sufficient, and that the former Attorney-General had been forced to supplement his traveling expenses while on State business from his own pocket.

Mr. Brewer said he had visited the office, and did not think there was an office of a practicing attorney in Richmond so poorly equipped. It had not even the ordinary filing conveniences. The Secretary of the Commonwealth's office was given \$5,500, the only amendment being to strike out of the bill an addition of \$200 to the salary of the chief clerk.

The allowance for clerk hire in the office of Auditor of Public Accounts was cut from \$23,150 to \$20,000, after many motions had been voted on, some reducing it still further. The items for the Second Auditor's office and Treasurer's office were passed without discussion. The salary of the Superintendent of Public Printing was reduced to the amount provided last session.

No Insurance Needed.

Quite a debate developed over an item of \$200 for insurance of elevators at the Capitol and Library, and of others to the power plant. The statement was made that as the State could not be sued, and was absolutely not liable for an accident that might occur, there could be no recovery under the policies, which are, therefore, just so much profit to the accident insurance companies. The item was passed \$100. The allowance for the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund was cut from \$700 to \$500 after several members had expressed their opinion of the practice of employing clerks for such boards, who already receive a State salary, and yet are paid an extra compensation for work they do in the State's time. Eight hundred dollars was tacked on to the fund for the Corporation Commission office, the suggestion being made both with regard to that office and the Auditor's office, that if the force worked more than five or six hours a day, as at present, so much extra clerk hire would not be necessary.

The Footnote Bills.

Just after the House convened yesterday morning, Mr. Walton, of the Committee on Printing, reported on a joint resolution for an investigation of the footnote bills, recommending that the House a letter from the Superintendent of Public Printing, telling that the bills in question had been printed from type set for some time known, only one of them, House Bill 418, so far as is known, having been printed from the State by the contracting printer. A resolution

was passed to the effect that the House should be kept advised of the progress of the printing of the footnote bills.

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giving unanimous consent for the introduction of a bill prohibiting the facsimile printing of any bill or paper of the General Assembly in type and style liable to cause private papers to be mistaken for public documents, was adopted.

In motion of Mr. Weaver, House Bill No. 432, providing for the appointment of a committee to consist of ten members of the House, one from each congressional district, to have from the Senate, to be selected from each of the grand divisions of the State, to be named by two in each of the House and Senate, as a special committee on taxation, to draw up bills for the proposed public documents, was made a special order for Friday at 11 o'clock. The act appropriated \$30,000 for the salaries and expenses and mileage of members of the committee.

NIGHT SESSION

The entire efforts of the House of Delegates at three long sessions yesterday, the night session lasting until nearly midnight, resulted in a net reduction of \$6,450 in the general appropriation bill, as an offset to the action on Monday when the House voted for a pension bill carrying an excess over the appropriation bill estimated anywhere from \$15,000 to \$400,000. During the day items aggregating \$6,450 were stricken out of the appropriation bill, and salaries of minor employees were increased over and above the amount allowed in the appropriation bill, to an aggregate of \$840 per annum.

At the night session reductions were made as follows:

For book stacks for State Library cut from \$1,500 to \$1,100; for additional clerk in office of State Highway Commissioner, \$800, cut out; salary of collector of the Penitentiary cut from \$1,300 to \$1,200 per annum; total reduction, \$1,700.

Salaries were increased over and above the appropriation bill as follows: Junior minister and timber agent, \$750 to \$800 per annum; two elevator conductors at Library Building, \$750 to \$800 each per annum; day policeman at State Library, \$720 to \$840 per annum; two in the Penitentiary, \$720 to \$840 each per annum; three firemen at powerhouse, from \$840 to \$960 per annum each; total salary increase for Civil employees, \$340 per annum.

The items for the Department of Agriculture, which were stricken out, although the bill carried several new items. The total appropriation is \$2,600,000. The items stricken from the department for the fertilizer tax amounting, it was stated, to about \$55,000 per annum. Mr. Gordon moved to strike out an item of \$5,000 for the fertilizer tax, which was defeated, 52 to 27. A motion to strike out an item of \$5,000 for the fertilizer tax, which was defeated, 52 to 27. A motion to strike out an item of \$5,000 for the fertilizer tax, which was defeated, 52 to 27.

Break Over Janitor Item.

The break in the day's effort to hammer down the appropriation bill came in the item providing for a janitor for the mineral and timber exhibit. Mr. Montague successfully carried through an amendment raising the pay from \$750 to \$840 and thereafter the members contended for the floor to offer amendments increasing the janitor's salary. The janitor's salary was raised from \$750 to \$840, and the day policeman in the Library from \$720 to \$840. The allowance for book stacks for the Library was cut from \$1,500 to \$1,100, notwithstanding the statement that there were no records which should be placed in metal receptacles. The two janitors of the Library were raised from \$720 to \$840 per annum. An unsuccessful fight was made to increase the pay of the janitor of the State powerhouse, but an increase was granted to the three firemen at the powerhouse from \$840 to \$960 each per annum. A speech by Mr. Horner, of Southampton, in which reference was made to the janitor of the State powerhouse, recommended it or not, put a stop to the janitor's salary increase. The janitor's salary was raised from \$750 to \$840, and the day policeman in the Library from \$720 to \$840. The allowance for book stacks for the Library was cut from \$1,500 to \$1,100, notwithstanding the statement that there were no records which should be placed in metal receptacles. The two janitors of the Library were raised from \$720 to \$840 per annum. An unsuccessful fight was made to increase the pay of the janitor of the State powerhouse, but an increase was granted to the three firemen at the powerhouse from \$840 to \$960 each per annum. A speech by Mr. Horner, of Southampton, in which reference was made to the janitor of the State powerhouse, recommended it or not, put a stop to the janitor's salary increase. 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